

Hearing Documents

Subcommittee Chairman Trey Gowdy Opening Statement

The purpose of the oversight committee is not necessarily to balance the relative merits or demerits of a

Our duty is to ask fair questions with an expectation of an honest and complete answer on behalf of the

That is why we are here today. Many in this room – including myself – fundamentally oppose the health

The current health care law was marketed to the American people as a means to provide high-quality he

Over the past year, it has become abundantly clear that companies are having trouble complying with the

The necessity of these waivers arose because many companies employ a health coverage strategy that

Thus the myth that if you like your current health care you can keep it has been exposed for around 3 months

Through an amorphous process shrouded in ambiguity and understood by few, the Administration has established

So our first question today is substantive. In light of over 1000 companies requesting waivers from the burden

Further, the entire waivers process is predicated on the ability of the Secretary to grant waivers in the first

What is the legal authority by which the Secretary can grant waivers? Where in the health care law does

Congress all too often in recent memory has abdicated its law making responsibility to employees or appointees.

It is not Congress' job to simply pass big ideas and leave the details to another entity – and it is also not

However the most important questions today concern the procedural aspects of this highly nebulous process.

Initially, how were these waivers advertised before a link was placed on the HHS website?

What was the process by which subsequent waivers were applied for, reviewed, accepted, denied, determined?

The American people expect open and honest answers to these legitimate questions. Waivers to the health care law

In order for companies to compete on a level playing field, as is the custom in our country, they must know

The waivers process, such as it is, lends credence to the conventional wisdom surrounding enactment of

These are due process, equal protection and fundamental fairness questions that are essential to be asked

Hearing Video



[Part 1](#) | [Part 2](#)

Witnesses

[Steven Larsen, J.D.](#)

Deputy Administrator and Director

Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (CCIIO)

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

[Edmund Haislmaier](#)

Senior Research Fellow

Center for Health Policy Studies

The Heritage Foundation

[Scott Wold, Esq.](#)

Shareholder

Hitesman & Wold, P.A.

[Judith Feder, PhD.](#)

Professor of Public Policy

Georgetown University

Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress

Other Documents